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Commission on Population and Development
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Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

Population, development and HIV/AIDS with particular emphasis on poverty

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the key actions for its further implementation[2] are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the attainment of the development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003 entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", resolution 49/2 on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, and Assembly resolution 58/179 of 22 December 2003 entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria",

Welcoming the decision to convene on 2 June 2005, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to review the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4]

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[4] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

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Noting that poverty and inequality increase people's vulnerabilities to HIV, posing increased risks of infection to populations in every region, while at the same time undermining the socio-economic conditions of people living with HIV,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately impacts women and girls, and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Emphasizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizing also that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic,

Noting with profound concern that 39.4 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, and that the HIV/AIDS pandemic claimed 3.1 million lives in 2004 and to date has orphaned 15 million children,

Noting with deep concern that the number of new cases of HIV infection remains unacceptably high, especially among individuals at high vulnerability and/or risk, as the infection spreads in the general population, particularly to women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, with the number of people living with HIV and AIDS increasing,

Recognizing that the internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration will not be achieved without, inter alia, an intensified, expanded and effective global response to HIV/AIDS, since it affects population dynamics, shortens life expectancy and slows economic growth through lost productivity and other factors that undermine development,

Reaffirming that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and reaffirming also the importance of the elimination of all forms of stigma imposed on and discrimination against people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS, including the most vulnerable,

Recognizing that access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS is one of the elements fundamental to achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recognizing also that economic and social development, and an enabling policy and legislative environment as well as sufficient resources are essential for an effective and truly multisectoral response to the epidemic,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combating the epidemic,

Emphasizing that the majority of HIV infections are sexually transmitted and that the infection is also associated with exposure to infected blood and mother-to-child transmission, that HIV and sexual and reproductive ill health have mostly common root causes, and that HIV transmission is influenced by a number of social factors including inequality, poverty, gender inequality and marginalization of those individuals at high vulnerability and/or risk,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty,[5]

Bearing in mind, in their entirety, the report of the International Conference on Population and Development[6] and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference, including the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly,[7]

1. *Reaffirms*, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the key actions for its further implementation;[2]

2. *Also reaffirms* the goals, targets and actions set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] which complement and reinforce those in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its five-year review and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

3. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

4. *Stresses* that HIV/AIDS contributes to the intensification of poverty in many countries, affecting individuals, families and communities as well as every sector of society, and it reduces human capital and has profound and long-lasting effects on the country's social and economic development, and that combating this trend requires urgent and sustained long-term action and coordinated response in all fields and at all levels;

5. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

6. *Recognizes* that the HIV pandemic is having a devastating impact on children, that the global number of orphans continues to increase, and that other children are vulnerable because they have an ill parent, live in poor households that have taken in orphans, live in child-headed households, or are discriminated against, and that more than 2 million children are living with HIV/AIDS themselves; and stresses the need to strengthen multisectoral responses in this regard, including psychosocial support to children and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

7. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide impact assessment of the epidemic which should be used in planning for prevention, treatment and care, and for addressing HIV/AIDS;

8. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa,

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[5] E/CN.9/2005/3.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18.

[7] See General Assembly resolution S-21/2 and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1).

especially sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and countries in other affected regions whose resources for dealing with the epidemic are seriously limited;

9. *Stresses* the need for an integrated approach in national responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic that includes an action framework to facilitate the coordination of work by all partners, one national HIV/AIDS framework, one national HIV coordinating body and one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system, all of which allow for inclusiveness and flexibility needed to foster and promote effective locally developed solutions; and commends the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for its leadership in engaging the support of Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international cooperation and multilateral agencies for making the "Three Ones" a reality;

10. *Notes with deep concern* that the HIV pandemic is straining resources in the health sector and in this regard stresses the need to strengthen health systems, including through international cooperation, by addressing the severe shortage of skilled health personnel as a major obstacle to the expansion of programmes to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to improve sexual and reproductive health;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on population that could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

12. *Urges* Governments to implement measures to increase capacities of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culture- and gender-sensitive framework;

13. *Also urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence, and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable all individuals to protect themselves from HIV infection, sexually transmitted infections and reproductive ill health;

14. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young women and men have access to information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

15. *Also stresses* the importance of building local capacity by working with national programmes and local organizations to create an effective and sustainable response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

16. *Urges* Governments to expand access to care and treatment to those in need, particularly those living in poverty, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, in a progressive and sustainable manner, and treatment of opportunistic diseases as well as the effective use of antiretroviral medication, and

to promote access to safe, low-cost and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

17. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen pharmaceutical policies and practices, including those applicable to generic drugs and intellectual property regimes, in order to further promote innovation and the development of domestic industry consistent with international law;

18. *Urges* relevant United Nations organizations as well as other relevant international organizations to further support national efforts for the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to address the issue of the cost, availability and affordability of drugs and related technology;

19. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health;

20. *Urges* Governments to enact, strengthen or enforce, as appropriate, public policies, laws, regulations or other measures to combat all forms of discrimination against and stigma imposed on people living with HIV/AIDS and individuals at high vulnerability and risk;

21. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

22. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening programmes and partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to mobilize the required technical and financial resources as part of a broad-based approach to the prevention of HIV, including through reproductive and sexual health care, as the mainstay of the national, regional and international response to the pandemic, and calls for the support of the international community in closing the funding gaps for sexual and reproductive health programmes;

23. *Encourages* increased investments in HIV/AIDS-related research nationally, regionally and internationally, in particular for the development of sustainable and affordable prevention technologies, such as vaccines and microbicides, and also encourages the proactive preparation of financial and logistic plans to facilitate rapid access to vaccines and microbicides when they become available;

24. *Urges* the international community to provide urgently the resources needed for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, in particular as identified by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, and to also provide full funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and welcomes its decision to create a voluntary replenishment mechanism to assure more predictable funding;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations Population Fund, in close collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other relevant funds, programmes and agencies, to continue to implement HIV prevention strategies, recognizing that sexual and reproductive health programmes are key entry points for HIV prevention, and taking into account the need for a comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment, commends the Fund for its Global Strategy for

Reproductive Health Commodity Security and urges all countries in a position to do so as well as other development partners to contribute to the trust fund;

26. *Commends* the commitment made by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to working with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the "3 by 5" target, that is to say, the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to 3 million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, urges Governments to continue to work collaboratively with the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS beyond 2005 towards the goal of making HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services accessible to all who need them;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the work of the Secretariat as well as other relevant funds, programmes and agencies on the gender dynamics and demographic aspects of HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner, including on infant, child and maternal mortality and its impact on population and development, and to reflect this in his reports to the forthcoming sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.